



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

THE

ION OF FRENCH

E EASY.

OD OF LEARNING TO

French Correctly,

BY

CANTEL,

OR OF FRENCH

STITUTE, MARYLAND.

TIMORE:

OODS, PRINTER.

1860.

EducT 1518.60.285

**Harvard College
Library**



By Exchange



3 2044 102 855 822

THE
PRONUNCIATION OF FRENCH
MADE EASY.

A NEW METHOD OF LEARNING TO

Pronounce French Correctly,

BY

J. B. CANTEL,

PROFESSOR OF FRENCH

AT PATAPSCO INSTITUTE, MARYLAND.

BALTIMORE:
JOHN W. WOODS, PRINTER.
1860.

Edic T 1518.60.285
✓

RECEIVED
JAN 10 1866

NOV 7 1840

ENTERED, according to the Act of Congress, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty, by J. B. CANTEL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of Maryland.

Pronunciation of French.

a, b, c, d, e, f, ġ, ĥ, i, ĵ, ḳ, l, m, n, o, p, q̣, ṛ, s,
t, u, v, x̣, ỵ, ẓ.

Compound Consonants.

bl, br, cl, chl, cr, chr, dr, fl, phl, fr, phr, gl, gr, pl, pr, (ps, pt, sc, scr, sp, sph, sq, st, str,) tl, thl, tr, vr. The nine between the parenthesis are compound at the beginning of words only.

Compound Consonants forming but a Simple Articulation.

th, ch, ph, rh, gn.

THE DIPTHONGS ARE:

1st. The inversion of the compound vowels formed with two vowels.

2d. Any connection of vowels that are not the compound ones.

EXCEPTIONS:

déesse, déité, poëte, poésie, poétique, etc.

IMPORTANT REMARK.

After l or r, preceded by some other consonant, the dipthong does not take place and both vowels are pronounced successively. Example: Sanglier, cria.

*Figurative Pronunciation of the nine Consonants
above pointed out.*

g, h, j, k, q, r, x, y, z.
zhay, ash, zhee, kah, ku, air, eeks, ee-greck, zed.

Among the consonants, nine only are to be learned, they are pointed out and their pronunciation is given above.

Those which are articulated in English with the help of e, are articulated in French with the help of é; the remainders are the same in both languages.

The only difference between the French and the English compound consonants concerns those that are between the parenthesis.

As for the compound consonants forming but a simple articulation, we must state that

after t and after r, h is silent.

ph is nothing but f.

ch is equivalent to sh.

gn, (liquid sound,) is pronounced as in mignonnette.

There are in French fifteen sounds, of which ten are found in English, the five others must be heard from a competent teacher.

The 1st is similar to the exclamation ah! in English.

The 2d is similar to i in bird.

1*

The 3d is similar to e in besides.

“ 4th “ o in rob.

“ 5th “ cannot be found in English

“ 6th “ is similar to ay in Sunday.

“ 7th “ o in no.

The 8th the same as the 2d, but longer.

“ 9th is similar to o in to.

“ 10th “ wa in wash.

“ 11th “ a in baker.

The last four are called nasal ; they cannot be found in English and must be heard from a native or a competent teacher.

The first five sounds are represented by simple vowels :

¹a, ²e, ³i, ⁴o, ⁵u.

The next five are represented by compound vowels :

the 6th has three different representations.

“ 7th has two “ “

“ 8th has two “ “

⁶ ai	⁷ au	⁸ eu	⁹ ou	¹⁰ oi
ei	eau	œu		
eai				

The 11th sound is represented by e with an acute accent over it, thus, é ; it has a 2d representation which is œ.

¹¹é
œ

The last four sounds are called nasal ; the 1st and the 2d have five different representations ; the 3d and the 4th have three representations :

an	in	on	un
am	im	om	um
en	ain	eon	eun
em	aim		
ean	ein		

Syllabication.

The French method of dividing words into syllables is not the same as the English, for the French take into consideration only the manner in which vowels and consonants are combined together, whilst the English have an absolute regard to the accent ; the difference will be very striking after having explained the rules which the French follow for that object. These rules are only three in number.

RULE 1st. The vowel is spelt with the preceding consonant.

RULE 2d. When two consonants are in succession, (the compound ones excepted,) the first is spelt with the preceding vowel, the next with the following one.

RULE 3d. When a consonant has no other vowel after it, it is spelt with the preceding one.

General Rules for Reading in French.

FIRST RULE.

Four consonants only are pronounced at the end of words, c, f, l, r.

SECOND RULE.

Consequently the consonants b, d, g, m, n, p, q, s, t, v, x, z are silent at the end of words. No mention about h, j, k, as these letters are never found at the end of words.

THIRD RULE.

In the case of the 2d rule of Syllabication, the first consonant is pronounced strongly.

FOURTH RULE.

When a consonant is doubled, the first is silent and the preceding sound short.

FIFTH RULE.

Unaccented e when spelt with the following consonant takes the sixth sound.

SIXTH RULE.

Unaccented e is quite suppressed at the end and in the body of words, when preceded by a single consonant, then, that consonant is pronounced strongly.

SEVENTH RULE. -

Unaccented e is half audible at the end of words when preceded by two consonants, if the

next word does not begin with a vowel, in which case it is quite suppressed.

EIGHTH RULE.

le, me, ne, pe, re, se, te, in the body or at the end of words are silent, if l, m, n, p, r, s, t are doubled, and the preceding consonant is pronounced strongly.

NINTH RULE.

The 3rd, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th sounds, when followed by unaccented e at the end of words preserve their own sound, but broader and gradually diminishing.

TENTH RULE.

u preceded by q is silent.

ELEVENTH RULE.

u when preceded by g and followed by e or i, is silent, but g is hard.

TWELFTH RULE.

s between two vowels is pronounced z.

THIRTEENTH RULE.

c and g are pronounced hard before a, o, u.

c is rendered soft by writing a cedilla under it,

g " " inserting unaccented e
between it and the vowel a, o or u.

FOURTEENTH RULE.

y between two vowels is pronounced like two i's.

FIFTEENTH RULE.

o followed by y in becomes ou.

SIXTEENTH RULE.

en preceded by i becomes in.

SEVENTEENTH RULE.

nt mark of the third person plur. of verbs are silent.

EIGHTEENTH RULE. (Nasal Sound.)

Any vowel followed by n or m forms the nasal sound at the end of words, and in the body of words when followed by some other consonant not being n or m.

NINETEENTH RULE. (Liquid Sounds.)

ill similar to the sound of the last i in William; liquid when not initial.

il is only liquid at the end of the four following words: *babel*, *fenil*, *mil*, (*millet*,) and the adjective *gentil*, when before a noun beginning with a vowel or h mute.

ail, similar to the sound of the vowel i in English; always liquid in any part of words.

ail, same sound as the preceding; liquid at the end of words.

eill, the e takes the sixth sound and forms a dipthong with ill; always liquid in any part of words.

eil, same sound as the preceding; liquid at the end of words.

ueill, ue must be inverted and the preceding consonant pronounced hard; eu forms a dipthong with ill; always liquid in any part of words.

ueil, same sound as the preceding, same observation concerning ue; besides, in the words beginning with œil, the letters œ must be pronounced eu; liquid at the end of words.

ouill, the compound vowel ou forms a dipthong with ill; always liquid in any part of words.

ouil, same sound as the preceding; liquid at the end of words, but it very seldom occurs.

gn is called liquid sound and pronounced like gn in mignonnette.

TWENTIETH RULE.

H is generally silent.

EXCEPTIONS.

RULE FIRST.

C.—Estomac, broc, croc, accroc, échecs (jeux,) tabac, jonc, flanc, caoutchouc, escroc, tronc, clerc, cric, porc, arsenic, banc, blanc, franc.

F.—clef, éteuf, cerf-volant, cerf-dix-cors, chef-d'œuvre, bœuf gras, nerfs, (plu,) nerf de bœuf, (the f of nerf is silent,) neuf before a word beginning with a consonant.

L.—baril, chenil, coutil, fournil, fusil, nombril, outil, persil, soul, sourcil, gentil, pouls, (s silent.)

cher R.—The words in which final r is pronounced, forming the exception, we give them instead of those in which final r is silent, they are : revers, amer, mer, tiers, divers, vert, vers, envers, travers, belvédér, cancer, cuiller, enfer, éther, fier, frater, hier, hiver, fer, pater, magister, the proper names . Esther, Gesner, Jupiter, Lucifer, the names of city Quimper, St. Omer, the past participle in ert from irregular verbs ouvrir, offrir, souffrir, etc., and the terminations in ers or ert from the verb acquérir and derivatives.

RULE SECOND.

B.—The proper names Jacob, Joab, Noab, Job, Aureng-Zeb, the words Radoub and Rumb.

D.—Obed, David, Joad, Alfred, Sud.

G.—Doëg, Agog.

M.—Sem, Cham, Priam, Stockholm, Postdam, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Wagram.

N.—abdomen, amen, éden, gramen, hymen, le Tarn.

P.—beaucoup and trop when followed by a word beginning with a vowel or h mute ; cap, gap, group.

Q —Cinq when pronounced alone or followed by a word beginning with a vowel or h mute ; q is pronounced in coq, but silent in Coq d'Inde.

S.—aloés, as, atlas, blocus, calus, factus, iris, mais, quitus, prospectus, lapis, en sus, locatis, vis, vasistas, rebus, chorus, gratis, hiatus, oremus, sinus, Bacchus, Crésus Délos, Pallas, Gil Blas, Rubens, Epaminondas, fils, (l silent,) lis but s is silent, in fleur de lis, plus que parfait, tous substantively used.

T.—accessit, brut, chut, dot, déficit, fat, granit, échec et mat, exeat, knout, luth, (h silent,) net, prétérit, rit, subit, tacet, transeat, transit, vivat, zénith, (h silent,) vingt followed by a vowel or h mute and from 21 to 29 ; sept, (p silent,) when pronounced alone or followed by a word beginning with a vowel or h mute, also when substantively used as le sept de cœur ; same rule, same observations concerning the word huit ; t is pronounced in Christ when this word is alone.

V.—In the number *neuf* followed by a vowel or *h* mute.

X is pronounced *cs* at the end of the following names or words ; *Pollux*, *Ajax*, *Palafox*, *Fairfax*, *Gex*, *Aix-la-chapelle*, *styx*, *borax*, *index*, *lynx*, *sphinx*, *préfix*, *phénix*, *larynx*, *styrax*, *thorax*, *anyx* ; *x* sounds *s* in *aix en Provence* ; *x* sounds as a strong whistle in the words *dix* and *six*, when they are alone or followed by a vowel or *h* mute.

Z sounds *s* in *Metz*, *Rodez*, *Suez*, *Cortez*.

RULE THIRD.

p is silent in *cheptel*, *indomptable*, *dompter*, *sculpteur*, *Baptiste*, *baptismal*, *baptême*, *baptiser*, *exempte*, *compte* and derivatives.

m silent in *automne*, *damner* and derivatives.

s silent in *duguesclin*, (*e* 6th sound,) *disciple*, *descendre* (*e* 11th sound,) and derivatives.

RULE FOURTH.

Redoubled consonants both pronounced :

c followed by *e* or *i*.

d, *addition*, *additional*, *reddition*, *adducteur*.

g followed by *é* or *è*.

- 1.—*alléger*, *allégorie*, *allusion*, *belligérant*, *bel-liqueux*, *collaborateur*, *colloque*, *constellation*, *ellébore*, *folliculaire*, *gallican*, *gallicisme*, *hellénisme*, *intelligent*, *interpeller*, *libeller*, *oscillation*, *palladium*, *pallier*, *pulluler*, *pusillanime*, *rébel-*

lion, solliciter, syllogisme, tabellion, velléite, and the derivatives of these words.

m.—ammon, Emmanuel, ammoniac, commensurable, commémoration, committimus, commotion, commuer and all the words in which mm is preceded by i ; also grammatical, grammatiste, but one m only is pronounced in grammaire and grammairien.

N.—annales, annexes, annuler, connivence, cannibale, inné innocuité, innové, innomé, and the proper names Cincinnatus, Linnée, Porsenna, Apennins.

r—exception concerning rr ; the sound which precedes rr is pronounced longer whatever may one or two be pronounced.

rr.—both pronounced in :

aberration, errement, erreur, errer, erroné, abhorrer, concurrent, interrègne, narration, terreur, torrent, all the words beginning with irr and in the future and conditional of the three verbs mourir, acquérir, courir.

t.—atticisme, attique, battologie, guttural, pittoresque.

RULE FIFTH.

Dessus, dessous, ressort, ressortir, ressembler, ressource and the words in the composition of which, enters the particle re (again, rursus) in which case the unaccented e preserves its own sound, the 2d one.

RULE SIXTH.

Aimerions, passeriez and all the verbs of which termination added to form a derivative has two sounds ; also chapelier, sommelier, atelier, chancelier, and some other words seldom used.

RULE SEVENTH.

The unaccented e is half audible, but more decided after two consonants which do not form a compound consonant. The final e of *proverbe* for instance, is more heard than this of *équitable*.

RULE EIGHTH.

No exception.

RULE NINTH.

No exception.

RULE TENTH.

Qua, que, qui, coua, cué, cui are pronounced in the following words :

adéquat	quadrupède
aquarelle	quadruple
aquatile	quadrupler
aquatique	quartz
à quia	quaterne
col-liquation	quaternaire
équateur	quatuor
équation	questeur
équestre	questure
équianglé	quindécagone

<i>équidistant</i>	<i>quinguagénaire</i>
<i>équilatéral</i>	<i>quinguagésime</i>
<i>in-quarto</i>	<i>quinguennal</i>
<i>liquation</i>	<i>quinguennium</i>
<i>liquéfaction</i>	<i>quinquérème</i>
<i>quadragésime</i>	<i>Quinte-Curce</i>
<i>quadrangulaire</i>	<i>Quintilien</i>
<i>quadrature</i>	<i>quintuple</i>
<i>quadrige</i>	<i>quintupler</i>
<i>quadrifide</i>	<i>Quirinal</i>
<i>quadrifolium</i>	<i>Squale</i>
<i>quadrilatère</i>	<i>squammeuse</i>
<i>quadriloculaire</i>	<i>squarreux</i>
<i>quadrinôme</i>	<i>ubiquiste</i>
<i>quadrissyllabe</i>	

Quadrature, terme d'horlogerie, et *liquéfier*, are pronounced *kadrature*, *likéfier*.

RULE ELEVENTH.

<i>aigue</i>	<i>ambigue</i>	<i>contiguïté</i>
<i>aiguille</i>	<i>ambiguïté</i>	<i>exigue</i>
<i>aiguillée</i>	<i>arguer</i>	<i>exiguïté</i>
<i>aiguillette</i>	<i>bisaguë</i>	<i>le Guide</i>
<i>aiguillon</i>	<i>ciguë</i>	<i>Guisse</i>
<i>aiguiser</i>	<i>contigue</i>	<i>unguis</i>

RULE TWELFTH

Désuétude, *monosyllabe*, *parasol*, *girasol*, *polysyllabe*, *polysynodie*, *préséance*, *présupposer*, *vraisemblance*, nous gisons, ils gisent, il gisait, gisant from *gésir*.

In the following words *s*, though being not between two vowels, is pronounced *z*.

transaction, transition, transiger, transit, transitif, transitoire intransitif, transalpin,* disgrâce, alsace, alsacien, balsamine, balsamique, balsamite and all the words in which *s* is followed by *b* or *d*, as presbytère, asdrubal.

RULE THIRTEENTH.

No exception.

RULE FOURTEENTH.

Andaye, Blaye, Biscaye, biscayen, Bayard, Bayeux, Bayonne, Mayence, Mayenne, which are pronounced: Anda-ïe, Bisca-ïe, bisca-ïen, Baïard, Ba-ïeux, Ba-ïonne, Ma-ïence, Ma-ïenne.

RULE FIFTEENTH.

No exception.

RULE SIXTEENTH.

Orient, client, science, patient, patience, ingrédient, expédient, audience, quotient.

RULE SEVENTEENTH.

No exception.

RULE EIGHTEENTH.

At the end of words: amen, Jérusalem, hymen, abdomen, éden.

*Remember this exception does not concern the words transir, transissement, transylvanie.

In the body of words : ennui, enivrer, enorgueillir, emmener, emmagasiner, emmailloter, emmancher, emménager, emmieller.

RULE NINETEENTH.

ill.—armillaire, maxillaire, papillaire, papille, pupille, campanille, codicille, fibrille, sibylle, sille, the proper names ; Achille, Gilles, also distiller, scintiller, vaciller, instiller, osciller, titiller, fritillaire, ville, tranquille, mille, pusillanime, imbécille with their derivatives and all the words beginning with ill.

gn.—ag-nat, ag-nation, ag-natique, ag-nus cognat, cog-nation, cog-natique, cog-nitif, cog-nition, di-agnostic, gnide, gnosse, gnaphalium, gnome, gnomique, gnomonique, gnostique, ig-name, ignée, ig-nition, ig-nicole, imprégnation, inexpugnable, mag-nolier, pig-noratif, prog-né, rég-nicole, stag-nant, stag-nation.

RULE TWENTIETH.

la hache	la halle	le haras
la haie	la hallebarde	se harasser
le hachis	le hallier	je harcèle
le haillon,	le hameau	le hardi
je hais,	la hanche	la hardiesse
la haine	le hanneton	le hareng
le Hainaut	je hante	le haricot
la haire	la haquenée	le harnais
le hâle	la harangue	la harpe

le harpon	le hochet	la huche
le hasard	le holà	le huguenot
la hâte	la Hollande	la hulotte
se hâter	le homard	la huppe
la hausse	la Hongrie	la hure
le haut	je honnis	le hurlement
le haut-bois	la honte	le hussard
la hauteur	le honteux	la hutte
le havre-sac	le hoquet	s'aheurter
se hérissier	la hotte	déhâler
le hérisson	le houblon	déharnacher
le héron	la houe	déhanché
le héros	la houlette	enhardir
la herse	la houppe	euharnacher
le hêtre	je houspille	éhonté
se heurter	la housse	rehausser
le hibou	la houssine	etc.
le hideux	le houx	
la hiérarchie	le hoyau	

IRREGULARITIES AND ANOMALIES.

X initial is equivalent to cs ; the exceptions are Xavier, Xénophon, Ximenès in which X is pronounced gz.

X preceded by initial e is pronounced gz ; exagéré, examiner, exaspérer, exiger, exalter, exemple, exercice, exhumer.

But x preceded by initial e and followed by ce, ci has the sound of k ; excès, exceller, excessif, excédant, excepté.

Between two vowels in the body of words x has the sound of cs ; luxe, Alexis, Alexandre, prétexte.

X has the sound of z in deuxième, dixième, dix-huit, dix-neuf, sixain, sixième.

The sound of ss in Auxerre, Auxonne, Bruxelles, six, dix, dix-sept, soixante, soixantaine.

The sound of ce in Cadix, Aix en Provence.

Ti in the body of words followed by a vowel is pronounced ci, if it is not preceded by s, x, or nous, vous.

EXAMPLE.

Action, diction, nation, portion, notion, relation, faction, caution, édition, potion, mention, ration, séduction, minutie, balbutie, Dalmatie, Vénitien, Domitien, patient, quotient.

THE FOLLOWING WORDS ARE EXCEPTED :

aitiologie, épizootie, galimatias, châtier, soutien, pitié, amitié, portier, cartier, métier, moitié.

ch sounds k in the following words :

Achab	Chaldée	cholagogue
Achaïe	Chaldéen	cholédoque
Achaz	chalybé	choléra
Achéens	Cham	chondrille
Achéloüs	Chanaam	choraïque
anachorète	chaos	chordapse
Arachné	Charon	chorée
archange	chélidoine	chorége
archétype	Chersonèse	chorégraphie
archiepiscopal	chiliade	choriambe
archiepiscopat	chiliarque	choriste
archonte	chiragre	chorévêque
Bacchus	chirographaire	chorion
Bacchanales	chiromancie	chorographe
Bachique	chirologie	choroïde
bacchante	Chiron	chorus
brachial	chiste	chrème
brachygraphie	chlamyde	chrétien
brachyptère	Chloé	Christ
catéchumène	Chloris	christianisme
Chalcédoine	chlorite	chromatique
chalcographie	chœur	chrome

e sounds a in the following words :

Femme, indemnité, indemniser, hennir, solennel and all the adverbs formed from adjectives

ending in ent, as prudent, prudemment, négligent, négligemment.

Words of which the last two consonants are pronounced.

Abject, contact, correct, direct, infect, suspect, strict, tact, est, ouest, indult, lest, whist, zist et zest, Christ, (when pronounced alone,) exact, distinct, succinct, laps, relaps, biceps, seps, forceps.

Words of which the last two consonants are silent :

Respect, circonspect, aspect, instinct, (remember the fifth rule.)

Um sounds ome in the following words :

Album, centumvir, décorum, duodenum, duumvir, factum, factotum, forum, galbanum, géranium, laudanum, maximum, médium, minimum, minium, muséum, opium, palladium, pensum, rhum, solanum, triumvir, ultimum.

a is silent in

août, aoûteron, aoriste, St. Laon, la saône, un taon, un toast.

i is silent in

coignée, oignon, encoignure, also the first i in douairière.

o is silent in

faon, faonner, Laon, Laonais, paon, paonneau.

s is silent in the words beginning with sce, sci, sche, schi, example : sceau, science, schérif, schisme.

r is silent in

Monsieur and Messieurs.

n is silent in

Monsieur and Béarn.

c is pronounced g in second and derivatives.

th are silent in the word asthma^e.

ANOMALIES.

SOUNDS.

2	4	6	6	5	11
ai in n. faisons je faisais, all the imperf. imper. fais- ons, prés. part. faisant	au first syllable of the future and cond. of avoir.	è et conj'n. et term'n. les des mes tes ses	è es est aie ais	eu from avoir also eu in gageure pron. gajure	er { ez { ed } and ai ter- mination of verbs.

Final consonants are to be articulated before a word beginning with a vowel or h mute, when the first word determines, qualifies or modifies the second, as :

The article before its noun, les hommes,
des amis.

The adjective before its substantive grand effet.

“ substantive “ adjective avis important.

“ pronoun “ verb, ils aiment.

“ verb “ pronoun aiment ils.

“ “ “ adverb il fait habilement

“ “ “ object il fait une table.

j'arrivais au but.

The adverb before an
adjective or participle très aimable, très aimés.

The preposition before a noun : sans accident.

The only consonants that are to be carried over the next word beginning with a vowel or h mute are: t, d, s, z, x, r, p, g, n,
and then t, d are pronounced t.

s, z, x are pronounced z.

r is pronounced r hardly and generally better not.

p is pronounced p in the only words beaucoup and trop.

g is pronounced k but it seldom occurs with euphony.

f is pronounced v in the numeral adjective neuf.

n is pronounced n in the cases hereafter explained.

The nasal termination is carried over to the following word beginning with a vowel or h mute, when the word to which final n belongs has no meaning without the next one.

EXAMPLE.

Ancien ami, bien heureux, vous en êtes assuré, en a-t-on parlé, nous en avons des nouvelles, on a dit, on estime.

The final n of the words bien and rien is carried over, when immediately followed by an adjective adverb or verb which they modify.

EXAMPLE.

Bien honorable, bien utile, bien écrire ; il voulait bien apprendre, mais il ne voulait rien étudier.

When bien and rien are followed by any other word than an adverb, adjective or verb, the n is not carried over.

EXAMPLE.

il parlait bien et à propos ; il ne voyait rien et n'entendait pas un mot.

When bien and rien are used substantively, the n is not carried over.

EXAMPLE.

ce bien est à moi ; c'est un bien à souhaiter ;
ce rien a des attraita pour moi.

In the adjective bon the final n must be spelt with the next vowel, and then the nasal sound disappears.

EXAMPLE.

bo-na^lmi, bo-nhomme, bo-nange.

The carrying of the consonants above given over the next word beginning with a vowel or h mute is not obligatory, it is a question of taste and euphony. Whenever the connection of a final consonant produces a discordant sound, it must be avoided, for the French prefer an irregularity to a discordance.

We may certainly say either aller à Paris or aller à Paris ; but never hasard heureux, tort imaginaire ; on attribue sa mort à un suicide mort horrible ; j'ai vu beaucoup de mauvaises voitures en suisse.

We should pronounce :

hasard^o heureux, tort^o imaginaire, sa mort^o à un suicide mort^o horrible, voitures^o en suisse.

When the last consonant must not be sounded, it is (as the above marks show) the penultimate one or antepenultimate, that will be articulated with the initial vowel of the following word.

The *t* of the conjunction *et* is never carried over to the next word.

Unaccented *e*, when the preceding syllable is a vowel sound, is entirely suppressed, and the preceding consonant is pronounced strongly.

EXAMPLE.

Chemin de[°] fer, chapeau de[°] soie, le succès de[°]
nos armes, chassés de[°] leurs demeures.

Unaccented *e* in two consecutive syllables is quite suppressed in one of them, generally the second one.

EXAMPLE.

Que de[°] voir. de[°] reconnoissance.

When euphony prevents the suppression of the second, the first is suppressed and the second pronounced.

EXAMPLE.

Tout ce[°] que tu m'apprends ; tu ne[°] me dis rien.

Same rule is applicable when the second *e* must be pronounced.

EXAMPLE.

Ceux qu^e le hasard, les habits qu^e le héros portait.

Unaccented e in three consecutive syllables is suppressed in the first and in the third.

EXAMPLE.

J^e le r^egardais avec étonnement.
Toutes les fois qu^e je l^e visitais.
Et j^e m^e r^eprochais.

Or the second only is suppressed, euphony is the rule.

EXAMPLE.

Je t^e le vendais ; je n^e le vendais pas ; je n^e me vendais pas.

Unaccented e in monosyllables and their derivatives may be suppressed even when they form the first syllable of a sentence, if the following syllable is a vowel sound.

EXAMPLE.

J^e v^eux, j^e v^eois, c^ependant, c^e livre, c^ela, still euphony prevents the suppression of e in the derivative celui.

Unaccented e between two consonants having the same power cannot be suppressed.

EXAMPLE.

Ceci n'est pas bon, je jugeai, te tairas-tu ; il voulait me mortifier, il veut se satisfaire, il te trahira

Unaccented e though preceded by a vowel sound, is not suppressed when the preceding word is too long.

EXAMPLE.

les mouvements passionnés de l'ame
Des compagnons de quelques jours.

The same rule is applicable when the word to which unaccented e belongs must be pronounced with a kind of emphasis.

EXAMPLE.

Faut-il traverser ce long corridor ?
avez-vous vu le grand serpent Boa ?

Unaccented e in the future and conditional of the verbs faire and être, (the first and the second persons plural of the conditional excepted) is always suppressed whatever may be the preceding sound, vowel or not.

On the French Accent.

There are in French neither accented syllables in the middle of words, nor unaccented endings :

Now, what is the accented syllable in French?

Always the last one or rather the last sounded articulation in every word.

The French accent is easily to be traced to its natural cause, the genius of the French language itself, for the last syllable of almost every word determines its very meaning, so there is no French voice, no perceptible sense without the final accent, in fact, there is no French language without it.

On the French Delivery

The proper distinction of letters and syllables which form the words is the basis of the French pronunciation, for there are no indistinct sounds in French.

When the letters and syllables are plainly and regularly enunciated, then the pronunciation is right; it is confused, on the contrary, when there is no distinction of syllables, that is to say: when the successive movements of the voice are confounded in a single emission of a sound or lost in a feeble and uncertain articulation.

This is the first cause of a bad pronunciation.

The first care of a foreigner in reading French is to see at a glance the number of words comprised in the first proposition and to measure his breath according to their length.

This care is indispensable, for every word

must be pronounced by gradually raising the voice with as many tones as there are words, and with as many shades of tones as there are syllables; observing scrupulously the absolute rule according to which the last syllable of each word must be extended while raising the voice, without changing the sound.

This, in fact, is the line of demarcation which separates the French delivery from the English delivery.

This fact is made apparent by the following example :

are you going to-day
(French way.)
or to-morrow.
(English way.)

The preceding remarks show the necessity of frequent pauses in French reading; these pauses must not only be frequent but also prolonged; for if the rules above given have been properly observed, the word which precedes the pause must have been pronounced in such a way that the reader has exhausted his breath. Consequently the pause must be long enough to rest from the fatigue of the preceding sentence; then begins again the ascending gradation until the next pause, and so forth.

It is by adapting the English rules of accentuation to French words that the pupils are embarrassed in their first efforts in French reading. The difficulty disappears as soon as they learn that there is no such thing as accent in French ; all the syllables being pronounced with equal distinctness, excepting that the last syllable is extended as already observed.

The uncertainty of the pupils is the cause of three different mistakes, each leading to a difficult and sometimes unintelligible delivery.

Some give to the intermediate syllables but an equivocal and uncertain articulation, some others clip the initial syllable, some others also, and these are the most numerous, reduce so much the articulation of last syllables, that the ear can hardly catch them. Often these final syllables entirely disappear, so that the beginning of the word only is heard and the rest is lost for him who is listening. That happens especially in the words ending with a feminine syllable, as in the words *prudence*, *espérance*, in which the last syllable often is entirely suppressed. That happens also in the terminations in *ée*, *ie*, *ue*, and those in *ar*, *er*, *ir*, *or*, *ur*, *eur*, *our*, *oir*, which are generally pronounced without any regard to the last syllable, the pronunciation of which is however so necessary sometimes for the integrity of the word and sometimes to decide the meaning of the expression.

2 3 4 1ⁱⁿ 3 6 10
Première janvier cette

1 4 2 3 2 1
date me vient à la

1 2 6 2 2
pensée dès que je

1 6
me veille.

5 7 1 11 0
une autre année

6 11 11 0 2
s'est détachée de la

6 0 9
chaîne des âges pour

3 11 1 3 0
tomber dans l'abîme

5 1
du passé.

9 1 1 6 10 0
La foule s'empresse

2 6 1 8 2
de fêter sa jeune

8 6 1 1 5
cœur. Mais tandis qu'

9 3 2
tous les

9 11
jours

3 2 1 1
me ré

